GOOD NEWS

Davison, Bird presented Secretarial Excellence Awards

Marilyn Davison of the Engineering Directorate and Theresa Bird of the International Space Station (ISS) Program Office recently received the Marilyn J. Bockting Secretarial Excellence Award.

Marilyn Davison

Davison was recognized in April for her contributions as secretary to the Deputy Director of Engineering; Bird was recognized in May for her contributions as lead secretary for the ISS Mission Integration and Operations Office.

NASA JSC 2001e18227 photo by Rob Markowitz

Marilyn Davison – April

"Ms. Davison's job in support of the Deputy Director can be demanding since it involves preparing correspondence, arranging for travel, arranging meetings, handling the telephones, interacting with visitors and maintaining the Deputy Director's calendar," according to her nomination form.

On her own initiative, she took the necessary training and is now the curator of the Engineering Directorate Web page. She also offers assistance to those in the office, including the Directorate's Executive Assistant. The nomination form stated that any task Davison is given is attended to in a professional and expeditious manner. At times, Davison must step out of her normal role as the secretary for the Deputy Director and serve as the directorate secretary.

"Ms. Davison has applied her excellent skills to achieving an exceptionally high level of service to the Deputy Director, and is invaluable in independently disposing of routine matters and in anticipating work that needs to be done," according to the nomination.

NASA JSC 2001e18228 photo by Rob Markowitz

Theresa Bird — May

"Her sense of responsibility and dedication to her profession contributes significantly to her excellent performance."

Theresa Bird

"Ms. Bird is a dedicated, enthusiastic employee who is a tremendous asset to the program," according to her nomination form. "She handles multiple requirements simultaneously and coordinates activities for an office in which everyone's requests are the 'most' important.... Ms. Bird always maintains a friendly, helpful attitude. She leads by example and demonstrates an exceptional amount of integrity."

Her main objectives were to put in place effective and efficient office practices, establish a rapport with all of the secretaries, build a secretarial team that can work together and serve as their mentor. She has also conducted secretarial meetings to relay policy changes and address issues.

She was the only secretary for the entire office for a period of time during the last program reorganization. Ms. Bird worked all of the logistics and administrative details with the ISS move coordinator, her management and others around the center to resolve any issues and difficult situations that arose.

"This was a tremendous effort that required an enormous amount of dedication and coordination," said her nomination form. "She did whatever was required to ensure the job was completed successfully and with the least amount of impact to the employees involved." ■

ISS Supplier wins Kellogg Scholarship

Ed Muniz, owner and chief executive officer of Muniz Engineering (MEI) in Houston, is congratulated by Mary Simmerman, Boeing Vice President, Space and Communications, Supplier Management, Procurement, for being selected to attend the Advanced Management Education Program at Northwestern University's prestigious Kellogg Graduate School of Management in Evanston, Illinois. He was nominated to attend the program by Boeing's International Space Station team. MEI provides engineering and related technical services to Boeing in support of the ISS in Houston.

Dr. John Charles wins Space Medicine Award

By Catherine Watson

John Charles, Ph.D., of the Flight Projects Division has been awarded the 2001 Hubertus Strughold Award by the Space Medicine Branch of the Aerospace Medical Association. Charles received the award at the association's annual meeting in Reno, Nev., on May 10.

The Hubertus Strughold Award, named for the widely renowned "Father of Space Medicine," is presented each year for excellence in and/or sustained contributions in the field of Space Medicine. Most awardees have been physicians and flight surgeons, but some have been scientists who were not medical doctors.

"I am surprised and very honored to receive this prestigious award because I am just one of many space life science researchers, both here at JSC and around the world," Charles said. "Anything I accomplished was made possible by the work of many others, and this award is a tribute to all of their efforts."

Charles was chosen for the award because of his work in understanding the effects of space flight on the human cardiovascular system, leading to better protective measures for astronauts. Charles was also noted for his efforts in documenting, understanding and reducing all of the human risks of short– and long-duration space flights.

John Charles, Ph.D.

"The list of previous recipients includes most of my role models and mentors," Charles added, "so I am honored to be among them."

The Space Medicine Branch, a constituent organization of the Aerospace Medical Association, is composed of nearly 300 international members. Its members are primarily physicians and scientists involved in the fields of medicine and physiology related to the study of the space environment. ■

Scientist receives national medal for Antarctic Research

By Jerry Wagstaff

Dr. John T. Lisle, a Lockheed Martin Senior Scientist in the NASA Astrobiology Institute for Biomarkers, received the Antarctic Service Medal from the National Science Foundation for his part in recent scientific expeditions to Antarctica.

Dr. Lisle received the award in recognition of valuable contributions to exploration and scientific achievement under the U.S. Antarctic Research Program. Astronaut Ken Reightler presented the award at a June 14 ceremony in the Earth Science and Solar System Exploration Division.

"This award is symbolic of not only a once-in-a-life time opportunity, but also of months of research in one of the most extreme environments on Earth," Lisle said. "It also reminds me of the encouragement and support that individuals at the National Science Foundation, NASA, Lockheed Martin and, most importantly, my wife and children have offered during these trips."

The Antarctic Service Medal is awarded to members of Antarctic expeditions, personnel of the permanent Antarctic stations or those who service in contiguous waters. It is awarded to officers, enlisted military personnel and deserving civilians–such as scientists and polar experts.

A microbiologist specializing in microbial ecology, Dr. Lisle studied the interactions between bacteria and viruses living in lakes in the Taylor and Wright Valleys, Queen Victoria Land, Antarctica. These lakes are permanently covered with ice, but the water in the lakes is so saturated with dissolved minerals that even at six degrees below zero Celsius the water under the ice remains liquid.

He collected samples from the Antarctic lakes to return to JSC for further study in conjunction with NASA, the National Science Foundation and the University of Houston at Clear Lake. Dr. Lisle supports the Astrobiology Project within the JSC Astrobiology Institute. He also supports the Mars Advanced Curation Project, which is preparing to receive future samples returned from Mars. The Dry Valleys of Antarctica are considered to be the best examples of Martian surface environments on Earth.

Dr. John T. Lisle in Antarctica

"Doing research in the field in Antarctica is beyond description for me. Even though the temperature and weather can be uncomfortable at times, the excitement of being there and seeing these areas and potential for new discoveries with each experiment make these discomforts hardly noticeable," he said.

"What has made it even more rewarding for me is the opportunity to collaborate with world-class scientists like Drs. John Priscu (Montana State University) and Gordon McFeters (Montana State University). Collectively, this has been an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life." ■